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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,800	11/21/2003	Clifford H. Ray	021120.0041.000	2949
7590	04/15/2005		EXAMINER	
Mark A. Tidwell Suite 2100 112 East Pecan San Antonio, TX 78205-1521			MCELEHENY JR, DONALD E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2857	

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/719,800	RAY ET AL.
	Examiner Donald E. McElheny, Jr.	Art Unit 2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-87 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-87 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-69, 80-82, 86, 87, drawn to a method for seismic data transmission, classified in class 702, subclass 14. The key feature between all these claims is their combination requires communication aspects between plural acquisition units. Their independent claims also lack the structural requirements of other sets of claims.
- II. Claims 70-79, drawn to a seismic data transmission system, classified in class 367, subclass 117 or 140+. This group is drawn to housing ("casing") structural content arrangements of plural transmission system components and lacks the method steps requirements of the Group I and lack the features of independent claims drawn to battery charging and structural contact access requirements of Group III.
- III. Claims 83-85, drawn to a method of charging batteries, and also a seismic housing unit (claim 84) with battery contact features related to the charging method of claim 83, classified in class 320, subclass 107 or 115. This group lacks the method step requirements of Group I and the is directed to collection of hazard information based upon proximity of a mobile device and sending such data to a collection server.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the reasons given above that each clearly requires unique steps or structural combinations not required of the other Groups, and therefore evidence they are distinct inventions which may be separately usable and have separate utility.

Though the above groups may be usable together, the groups' above listed key features are distinct requirements within each group not required of the remaining groups, and thus involve distinct searches. Also, the distinct steps or structure of each group as discussed supra are also evidence they are directed to separate distinct combinations that while they may be usable together is evidenced by their separate presentation by applicant that applicant believes they are separately patentable and can stand on their own merit as inventions.

2. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the respective search required for each Group involve areas of search not required for the other Groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald McElheny, Jr. whose telephone number is 571-272-2218. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoff Marc, can be reached on weekdays at telephone number 571-272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Donald E. McElheny, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2857